

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-10 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter because they are supported by the claims, as originally filed. Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Allowable claims 3, 7 and 8 are rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 1, and to correct informalities. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of allowable claims 3 and 4, and to correct informalities. Claims 5 and 6 are amended to make each of these claims dependent from amended claim 1, and to correct informalities. Claims 2, 9 and 10 are amended to correct informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 7 and 8 are rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 1, and to correct informalities. Thus, claims 3, 7 and 8 are allowable. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of allowable original claim 3 and allowable original claim 4 (now-canceled), and to correct informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as claims 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 which depend from claim 1, are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kawasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,144,039). The rejection is rendered moot by the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable original claims 3 and 4.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RMJ/hms

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Attachment:
Substitute Abstract

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